

STATEMENT OF ELAINE L. CHAO
CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

APRIL 12, 1989

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TODAY. I APPRECIATE YOUR WORKING THIS HEARING INTO YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE. I WILL KEEP MY STATEMENT BRIEF. BEFORE I BEGIN, I ALSO WANT TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO SENATOR PETE WILSON WHO HAS TAKEN TIME FROM HIS BUSY SCHEDULE TO ACCOMPANY ME TO THIS CONFIRMATION HEARING.

I AM HONORED TO BE HERE TODAY AS PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH'S NOMINEE FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, AND TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH SECRETARY SKINNER ON THE IMPORTANT TRANSPORTATION ISSUES FACING THIS NATION.

I APPEARED BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE ON APRIL 29 LAST YEAR AS PRESIDENT REAGAN'S NOMINEE FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION. I APPRECIATE THE CONFIDENCE EXPRESSED BY THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE IN RECOMMENDING THAT MY NOMINATION FOR THAT POSITION BE CONFIRMED.

MY YEAR AS CHAIRMAN HAS BEEN VERY VALUABLE, PROVIDING IN-DEPTH EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH THE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY AND DIFFICULT REGULATORY ISSUES. I KNOW I SHARE WITH SECRETARY SKINNER THE PHILOSOPHY THAT AN APPOINTEE TO A LEADERSHIP POSITION HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO STEP FORWARD AND INITIATE ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES THAT CONFRONT A DEPARTMENT, AND NOT SIMPLY PRESIDE OVER A PROCESS PUT IN PLACE BY PREDECESSORS.

I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, HAVING SERVED AS DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION FROM 1986 TO 1988. THE DEPARTMENT INCLUDES NINE DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATIONS, MOST OF THEM OVERSEEN BY THIS COMMITTEE. YOU ARE AWARE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES DEALT WITH IN THOSE AGENCIES AND OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING FORWARD ON THEM.

IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD CITE THE CONTINUING EFFORT TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL AVIATION SECURITY, TO FURTHER THE COAST GUARD'S DRUG INTERDICTION EFFORTS AND PROTECT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT, TO PRESERVE THE BENEFITS OF DOMESTIC AIRLINE DEREGULATION, AND TO ENSURE A DRUG FREE WORKPLACE AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM. SECRETARY SKINNER HAS INSISTED THAT MORE BE DONE IN THESE AREAS AND OTHERS BY THE DEPARTMENT. I PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCESS.

SECRETARY SKINNER HAS LAUNCHED THE EFFORT TO ASSESS WHERE WE ARE IN TRANSPORTATION, AND WHAT THE FUTURE TRANSPORTATION POLICY OF THE NATION SHOULD BE. THIS IS A VITAL UNDERTAKING. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION WILL PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN DRAWING TOGETHER THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THIS WORK.

BEFORE CLOSING, I WOULD STRESS MY BELIEF IN THE VALUE OF PUBLIC SERVICE, IN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TRANSPORTATION ISSUES FACING US AS A NATION, AND OF THE NEED TO GATHER A LEADERSHIP TEAM UNDER SECRETARY SKINNER TO INITIATE THE POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS WITH CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC TO ACHIEVE OUR COMMON GOALS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH SECRETARY SKINNER AND THE CONGRESS AS WE PURSUE POLICIES THAT BEST MEET THIS COUNTRY'S TRANSPORTATION NEEDS.

I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT WITH YOUR APPROVAL, I WILL DO MY UTMOST TO FULFILL MY NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.

AS I CONCLUDE, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO NOTE THE VALUABLE ADVICE I HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE STAFF OF THE COMMITTEE DURING THIS PROCESS. I AM VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THEIR EFFORTS.

I WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

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